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FOR 1877.  
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#### The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, MARCH 9TH, 1877.

The Consular Reports on the foreign trade of Japan for the year 1875 have been published, and they strongly confirm the statements made by the *Kyoto Nihon* printed in these columns about a month ago. The imports for that period, it appears, exceeded the exports by some twelve millions of dollars, involving a large drain of treasure, which Japan, a poor rich country—can ill afford.

British Consuls point out, this state of things can only be remedied by an increase in the production of certain articles and the development of the natural resources of the country. Mr. CONSUL ANNEXED, of Hiogo, writes on this feature of the trade:—"The serious falling off in the value of the foreign export trade of this district is a subject well worth the attention of the native Govern-

ment, affecting as it does the revenue of the country as well as the prosperity of its inhabitants. The purchasing powers of the latter are already sensibly impaired, and unless some change for the better take place, will speedily be still further diminished."

The Army and Navy *Gazette* says:—"The appointment of an additional medical officer to the Captain of the China Station, now held by Surgeon G. B. Hill, for special service in connection with the Look Hospitals in Japan, is proposed to hand over the charge of those hospitals to the Japanese Government, and it is probable that a higher class of native medical practitioner than hitherto employed in the department will be placed in charge in future."

A special telegram from Berlin to the *Tele-Mail Gazette* states:—"Commercial intercourse between Russia and China has come to a complete standstill, owing to a prohibitory decree issued by the Chinese Government. The decree is prompted by suspicious aroused by Colonel Przesselsky's exploring expedition and other Russian movements along the Amur, which are aimed at China to indicate hostile designs. The Chinese Imperial decree entirely forbids commercial intercourse with Russia."

Reported Visitation to the City Hall, Libraz and Museum for the week ending March 7th.

	EUROPEAN.	CHINIAN.
Thursday.....	53.....	972
Friday.....	61.....	980
Saturday.....	46.....	984
Sunday.....	46.....	984
Monday.....	45.....	956
Tuesday.....	33.....	1105
Wednesday.....	41.....	824
Total.....	324.....	5737

The following is a list of articles presented to the City Hall, Museum, and Library, from February 23rd to March 8th, 1877:—One Kori's Chinese materia medica; by Dr. S. Doda; fourteen birds, by Mr. D. Bourmann; one gun (Chinese), by Mr. D. Gillies; two morea penelope bullock (waterfowl); and one tritona (turkey), by Mr. S. L. Macgillivray; and four cases Hongkong butterflies and moths, by Mr. J. M. Armstrong.

The Saigon *Independent* announces that in consequence of the falling off in the support extended to it by its publication will be temporarily suspended. Should a sufficient number of subscribers be forthcoming it will be resumed, but for the time being it has decided to suspend its efforts to secure its life, it has gradually had to work to find out the best and most economical way in which to develop the productive power of the country. If the present condition of affairs be allowed to go on for many years, a feeling of discontent, ending in reaction and revolution, will follow. For this there is, however, no occasion, provided the Mikado's Government will not act with prudence and care. It could not do better than take the advice of some disinterested foreigner on the subject of the development of the mineral wealth and agricultural capabilities of the empire.

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The following items are from the *London and China Express* of the 23rd January:—

Mr. Po Hennessy, the new Governor of Hongkong, has received the freedom of the city of Cork.

The Royal Humane Society's Testimonial has been presented to Lieut. W. J. Osborne, of H.M.S. *Nereus*, for saving Marshal Maury, the same ship, who fell overboard at Weingang on the 18th of October last.

Two garrisons of the latest design, and calculated to carry heavy ordnance, have recently been purchased from a private firm for the Chinese Government, and it is said that they will be navigated out to China by half-penal naval officers, who will probably retain their commands until their Chinese crews have been well acquainted with the vessels.

The handsome new screw China clipper *Louisiana Castle* sailed from the Clyde on the 18th January, reached London on the 1st of February, after a splendid run to the Downs, her average speed being 13½ knots, and she is now bound for the Far East.

The *Louisiana Castle* was recently built by Messrs. J. & G. Thomson for Messrs. Skinner and Co's China line. The passage to London fully confirms the result of the trial trip on the 15th January.

The command of the steamer *Shorncliffe* has been assigned to Colonel Payton, and not to the Duke of Connaught, as was rumoured, but it is asserted that when Colonel Payton becomes a major-general, probably about two months hence, his Royal Highness will be his successor. Colonel Payton served in the 93rd Regiment with the expedition to the north of China in 1842, and was present at the operations in the Yangtze-Kiang, the attack and capture of Ningpo, and the fighting before Ningpo. He has also served with distinction in India.

The total quantity of tea delivered from the bonded warehouses in London for the week ended the 10th January was 3,168,639 lbs., which, compared with 3,753,759 lbs. was for home consumption, 937,331 lbs. was removed ready for exportation, 160,606 lbs. was export for re-exportation, and 3,073,314 lbs. was exported for ship's stores. The duty received during the same period amounted to £53,314, showing a fall of 9½ per cent., the total in the previous week being £65,570.

The Great Northern Telegraph Company announces that their London station has been placed in communication by pneumatic tube with the principal post-office telegraph stations in the city, and that the originals of all messages handled at these stations are forwarded direct to the company's headquarters in London. The service is a great improvement in the delivery of messages, received from China and Japan by the lines of the company arrangements have been made for a direct delivery by the company's own messengers, so that the messenger will "at" or hereafter receive the message "from" the post office.

The *China Mail*, also employed at the Nagasaki Line, called for the defense, said he

met the prisoner half a mile from Yow-mabie,

and got a light from him. He saw also a

defendant named Li, who had

been a witness in the case.

The prisoner was alone. Witness went to

the Criminal Sessions.

CHARGE OF HIGHWAY ROBBERY AGAINST

The remanded case, in which James Barnard, a private in H.M. 25th Regiment, was charged with robbery not in custody, with making a false report of his name, and with breaking and entering into a house, was sent to trial at the Criminal Sessions.

The prisoner said he would be tried at the

Criminal Sessions.

The prisoner said he would make his defense

now. He was out for a walk, and at nine

minutes past twelve he met his friend

Michael O'Shangnessy, and asked him for a

light. He said he was going to the Black Rock.

He said he had not, and did not know where

the Black Rock was. A Chinaman

in the street said he was the man, and he

had a witness who

had been a witness in the case.

The prisoner said he would make his defense

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